

March 24, 1976

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President and members of the legislature, I can't resist answering some of Senator Lewis's questions and some of these charges. He talks about the high price gas but still you can find gasoline for 47.9 up to 60.9. It varies that much within a few blocks. So it seems like somebody is making money even at 50¢ a gallon. He talks about where will this money go. I think if he would read the reports that come from the Highway Commission he maybe isn't too much interested about the reports that come from there but that shows all the roads that are on the drawing board for the next 6 years and either just postpone and postpone because the funds aren't there to build these roads. As far as that we are way ahead of other states, I think it's just the opposite. We are behind with our neighboring states on the miles of interstate and multi lane highways. I would like to ask Senator Schmit a question. I would like to use some of my closing time to ask him a question. Senator Schmit, I'd like to ask you about the issuance of bonds.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well Senator Maresh, as you know I had a bill that would allow the Governor to issue bonds if he choose to do so. I believe there's a very real difference between the issuance of bonds for construction purposes and the spending of money for the maintenance of highways. I believe that your tax increase could very well go for maintenance which is an ongoing cost and one which should be born out of internal revenue but the issuance of bonds could very well have been employed to have built roads at less cost for interest than to have allowed the road construction to have been delayed and the inflationary factor to have increased the cost of construction more than 50% in the last three years.

SENATOR MARESH: I remember one time, Senator Schmit, you and I attended a meeting in York as far as getting a North and South interstate. I remember Senator Burbach was there too. Do you think with the present gas tax this thing will be coming in the near future?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I don't know about the North and South interstates, Senator Maresh, but I sure hope we could build highway 66 out between Dwight and Valparaiso.

SENATOR MARESH: Thank you Senator Schmit. So I hope you all consider this very seriously that we are in trouble on the state, county and local level in the cities and I hope you vote to advance the bill as amended. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The question is, shall this bill be advanced. Please record your vote. Please vote. Could you vote please? Senator Maresh is standing at his microphone. Record the vote. Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Yes, Mr. President, call of the House please.

PRESIDENT: Alright.

SENATOR MARESH: And roll call vote.

PRESIDENT: The question is, shall the House go under call. Record your vote. Record.